Off-shore LNG storage at Andhra Pradesh

2349. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested Central Government for sanction of an off-shore LNG facility to supply LNG as an alternative gas for the four gas based power projects, which are commencing commercial operations in 2005-2006 in Andhra Pradesh in view of the current situation of gas not being available on the scheduled dates for the four up-coming power projects, which necessitates an off-shore LNG Terminal as an immediate alternative solution;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The off-shore barge mounted LNG facilities are highly capital intensive and have long gestation period. Such facilities are set up by the companies on commercial considerations. In view of large gas discoveries on the East Coast off-shore KG Basin, the viability of setting up off-shore Barge mounted LNG facilities is suspect. The current LNG prices in the international market are very high, and may not be affordable to the power sector.

Action against oil companies in adulteration cases

2350. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in case of adulteration of fuel by petrol pumps operator, oil companies could not be sued; and

(b) if so, the reasons for keeping the oil companies outside the purview of filing complaints or prosecution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) consider it as their duty and responsibility to ensure dispensation of correct quality and quantity of fuels sold through their petrol pumps. As per the Dealership Agreement between the OMCs and their dealers, once the product is delivered, the quality of products is the responsibility of the dealers. However, in case the OMC's officials are involved in adulteration cases, legal action against such officials could also be taken in addition to administrative action.